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60 terror plots foiled — Shultz

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WASHINGTON — The U.S., teaming with other countries, has averted more than 60 acts of planned terrorism in the last nine months, Secretary of State George Shultz disclosed yesterday.

He said the grim statistic proves the U.S. needs to beef up its intelligence network to counter terrorism.

The current intelligence system, he said, "is quite good. Obviously we want to make it a lot better."

But he stressed that America's information-gathering capabilities suffered during the Watergate period "and had to be rebuilt" at the same time that terrorism aimed at the U.S. began to spread.

On another matter, Shultz said he is "absolutely not" going to cancel his planned trip to South East Asia and Australia next week as a result of the crisis.

And he said the TWA hijacking has not strained relations between Israel and the U.S.

"We have to keep in mind that the government of Israel and the people of Israel suffer with us. They've been there and have a real feel for these problems."